

2024 Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program

Webinar - 4 March 2024

Cattle Compensation Advisory Committee
Sheep and Goat Compensation Advisory Committee
Swine Industry Project Advisory Committee
Apicultural Industry Advisory Committee



We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.

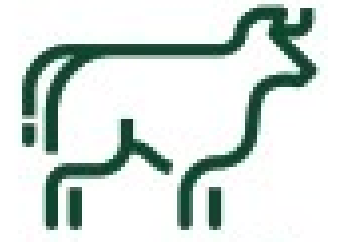
Housekeeping

- This session will be recorded
- The recording, transcript and slides will be available via the Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program website
 - www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/funds-grants-programs/livestock-biosecurity-funds
- Cameras, microphones and chat are turned off
- Questions via the Q&A icon at the bottom of the window
- Can be lodged anonymously



Agenda

1. Overview of the Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Programs
 - The Funds and the Committees
 - The Program
 - Projects previously funded
2. Objectives of the 2024 Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program
 - Current challenges for industry and long-term vision
 - Statement of Strategic Intent from each committee
3. Eligibility, requirements and how to apply
4. Q&A session



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Overview of the Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program

- The Funds and the Committees
- The Program
- Projects previously funded

The Compensation Funds and the Livestock Advisory Committees

Under the *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994* (Act)

- Cattle, sheep, goat and pig livestock producers pay stamp duty upon selling livestock
- Bee keepers pay registration fees
- 4 funds, each with an advisory committee
- Minister for Agriculture appoints the Committee with a balance of skills across respective livestock industry, allied industries, value chain and other relevant areas
- Committees provide advice to the Minister for Agriculture on payments from the funds



Cattle Compensation Fund	- Cattle Compensation Advisory Committee (CCAC)
Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund	- Sheep and Goat Compensation Advisory Committee (SGCAC)
Swine Compensation Fund	- Swine Industry Projects Advisory Committee (SIPAC)
Honey Bee Compensation and Industry Development Fund	- Apicultural Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC)

Payments from the Compensation Funds

Payments from the Compensation Funds are for:

- **Programs and projects for the benefit of the respective industry**
- Payment for compensation for specified endemic diseases
- Administration of the Compensation Funds

The Minister for Agriculture approves payments from the Fund, **on the recommendation of the respective Committee**



Funds nominally allocated to:

- Reserve for disease compensation payments
- Allocation for committed projects
- Available for future projects

The Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program

The Livestock Biosecurity Funds (LBF) grant program has annual and targeted rounds

- **Prevent, monitor, and control diseases to enhance animal health, biosecurity and market access** for the benefit of Victorian livestock industries
- **Not for core business of government or development of commercial products**
- Each **Committee set the strategic direction** for each round
- **Assessments against selection criteria** by independent assessment panel and Committees



LBF Grant Program investments

Preparedness Improve the readiness for Victoria to respond to a biosecurity incident.

Case Study: **National Bee Biosecurity Program in Victoria** HBCIDF \$58,340 over 3 years

- Victorian Bee Biosecurity Officers provides education and awareness on the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice and biosecurity best practice to improve the management of established pests, increase preparedness and surveillance for exotic pest threats.
 - Over 1,100 presentation to beekeepers since 2021
 - Supported 224 beekeepers regarding endemic diseases such as American foulbrood
 - Supported over 155 beekeepers joining the State Quarantine Response Team
 - Increased numbers of beekeepers around port areas for early detection of exotic pests



Traceability Improve the integrity and operation of Victoria's traceability system, critical for biosecurity response, assurance and market access

Case study: **electronic NLIS cattle and sheep tag subsidy** CCF \$7.6m over 6 years and SGCF \$7.4m over 4 years

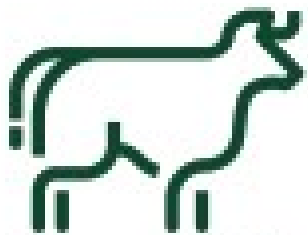
- Gives producers access to attractively priced electronic NLIS tags – up to \$3.46 less for cattle tags and up to \$1.28 for sheep tags than interstate tags and incorporate automated PIC updates.
- Over \$3.98 million provided for tag subsidies since 2020 – along with Agriculture Victoria negotiates with tag manufacturers provides cheapest NLIS tags in Australia.

LBF Grant Program investments

Early detection Supporting additional capability for surveillance and disease investigation to detect diseases of livestock that could impact on human or animal health, farm productivity or market access and trade, as early as possible, reducing the impact of disease and cost of management and eradication.

Case study: **Significant Disease Investigation** (SDI) Program
CCF \$720,000 SGCF \$720,000 SCF \$41,000 over 6 years

- Provides subsidies to private veterinarians to undertake investigations of significant disease events and subsidise laboratory testing for the producer
- Between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2023, the SDI program:
 - The initial detection of Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) in pigs in Victoria.
 - Completed 489 cattle disease investigations by private veterinary practitioners which included 195 investigations that excluded an emergency animal disease across Victoria.
 - Completed 595 investigations in sheep and 26 investigations in goats by private veterinary practitioners, which included 4 goat investigations and 88 sheep investigations that excluded an emergency animal disease (EAD) across Victoria

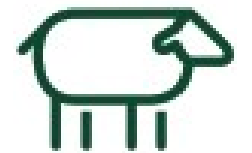


LBF Grant Program investments

Education Build awareness and capability of industry to manage biosecurity risks

Case study: **Stock Sense** CCF \$1.1m and SGCF \$1.1m over 4 years

- Aimed at improving on-farm biosecurity, animal health, and welfare in Victoria by increasing awareness, enhancing management skills and knowledge, establishing positive social norms, and building networks for information exchange
- Delivered workshops, webinars, information packs, network groups, and communication strategies
 - In 2022 and 2023, 5 cattle workshops, 5 sheep and goat workshops, 5 peri-urban workshops and 2 supply chain training workshops were held, with a total attendance of 166 and 211 participants respectively
- Increasing focus on peri urban landholders



Research Support development of new technologies (eg tests, vaccines) to support early detection and response.

Case study: **Validate an on-farm test for Barber's Pole worm** SGCF \$97,000 over 2 years

- Fast, accurate diagnosis is important for farmers to implement appropriate management of Barber's Pole and to detect early infections before production loss and stock loss occurs.
- This project seeks to validate an on-farm test for Barber's Pole worm (*Haemonchus contortus*) by using technology previously developed in a lab setting to transfer the technology to an on-farm test will be able to be conducted within 3-4 hours by a producer at a cost as little as \$5/test.

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Objectives of the 2024 Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program

- Current challenges and long-term vision for Victorian industry
- Cattle Compensation Fund Statement of Strategic Intent
- Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund Statement of Strategic Intent
- Swine Compensation Fund Statement of Strategic Intent
- Honey Bee Compensation and Industry Development Fund Statement of Strategic Intent

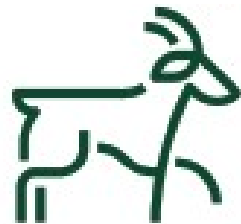
Current challenges for the Victorian livestock industries

- **Increasing biosecurity risks**
 - Changes to livestock and disease movement
 - Increasing travel and trade
 - Climate change
- **Awareness across industry and the community** of biosecurity risks
- **Demographic and generational changes** in agriculture and land use
 - Peri-urban, new entry, and recreational farmers, corporate enterprises, Intensification of animal production, labour shortages, social licence



Longer term outcomes for the the Victorian livestock industries

- **Long term sustainability and productivity** of the Victorian livestock industries
- Maintain **market access and competitive advantage** for the Victorian livestock industries
- Improved **on-farm biosecurity** and proactive approaches used to **detect and manage disease**
- **Collaboration and capability** of government and industry to **respond to disease outbreaks**
- Improved **animal health**

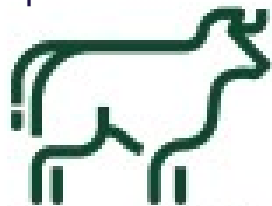


Do you have a project that contributes to these outcomes?

Key focus areas for the Cattle Compensation Fund

Lessons from previous applications:

- Problem must well defined
- How is this the same or different to other programs/policy out there?
- Clear impact and benefit for the Victorian cattle industry as a whole
- How will you evaluate this project and at what level - activities to outcome?
- For ongoing programs, what evaluation has been completed?



Key focus areas

- **Preparedness for response**
prevention and building response capability, capacity and planning
- **Traceability**
enhance system integrity and effectiveness
- **Early detection**
improved surveillance and monitoring
- **Education**
awareness and training for industry to better manage biosecurity risks
- **Research**
particularly technologies for testing and treatment (eg vaccines)

Target areas

- Livestock veterinary capability to respond to an EAD outbreak
- Data management and animal health or potential residue feedback

Targeted area: Livestock veterinary capability to respond to an EAD outbreak

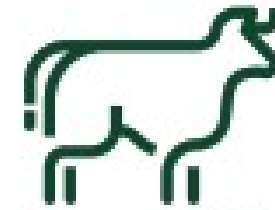
Objective

- Ensure Victoria **maintains the capacity to respond effectively** in an emergency disease outbreak
- **Attract and retain livestock veterinarians** so they thrive in **regional Victoria**

Projects that will support new and current veterinarians to gain **the confidence, knowledge, experience, networks and speciality skills for livestock**

For example:

- Graduates work in an operational and respected livestock veterinary clinic alongside senior veterinarians
- 1:1 mentoring
- Regular training sessions and events
- Collaboration with Agriculture Victoria EAD preparedness
- Something else?



Do you have a project or an alternative approach?

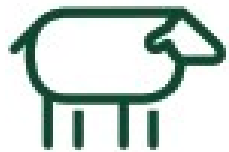
Led by the Cattle Compensation Advisory Committee

Sheep and Goat Compensation Advisory Committee is keen to support a component to provide these new vets with training relevant to the sheep and goat industry

Key focus areas for the Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund

Lessons from previous applications:

- Encourage joint funding across committees
- Target projects that benefit the Victorian industry
- Link project objectives with strategic intent
- Open to innovative, blue-sky ideas



Key focus areas

- **Preparedness for response**
building response capability, capacity and planning
- **Traceability**
enhance system integrity and effectiveness
- **Early detection**
improved surveillance and monitoring
- **Education**
awareness and training for industry to better manage biosecurity risks
- **Research**
particularly technologies for testing and treatment (eg vaccines)

Target areas

- Livestock veterinary capability
- Antimicrobial stewardship
- Data management and animal health feedback
- Management of newly emerging diseases (e.g. testing, vaccines)

Key focus areas for the Swine Compensation Fund

Lessons from previous applications:

- What is industry or government already doing or has done in this space?
- Is this supported by government and industry?
 - Letters of support
 - Co-founding
- Use previous projects as a reference for scale and scope



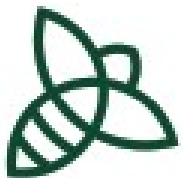
Key focus areas

- **Preparedness for response to biosecurity events**
build prevention and response capability, capacity and planning of government and industry.
- **Traceability**
enhance system integrity and effectiveness.
- **Early detection**
improved surveillance and monitoring, including domestic and feral pigs, to inform decision making.
- **Education**
awareness and training for industry to better manage biosecurity risks, including swill feeding, traceability, mixed species awareness and interaction, and small producer legal and biosecurity obligations.
- **Research**
particularly technologies for testing and treatment (eg vaccines)

Key focus areas for the Honey Bee Compensation and Industry Development Fund

Lessons from previous applications:

- What is the benefit for the apicultural industry?
- Limitations of the fund – use previous projects as a reference for scale and scope
- Is this supported by government and industry?
 - Letters of support
 - Co-founding



Key focus areas

- **Preparedness for response**
building response capability, capacity and planning including the development of innovative control techniques to prevent and manage significant pests and diseases including AFB
- **Traceability**
enhance system integrity and effectiveness
- **Early detection**
improved surveillance and monitoring
- **Education**
awareness and training for industry to better manage biosecurity risks, disease treatment and management and improve bee keeper competency
- **Research**
particularly technologies for:
 - nutrition and genetic breeding programs, including for AFB
 - building honey bee resistance to significant pests and diseases
 - understanding of supplementary feeding of bees/husbandry practices to maintain healthy honey bee pollination stocks
 - benchmarking against national and international AFB standards

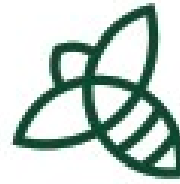
3 Eligibility, requirements and how to apply



Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible:

1. Eligible **entities** with ABN
2. Conduct the proposed **activities in Victoria**
3. **Meet all industrial relations obligations** as an employer in accordance with the National Employment Standards
4. Agree to participate in **future program evaluation activity and public communication** on the project
5. Project **must benefit Victorian industry and not be core business for your organisation**



Key items and supporting documents

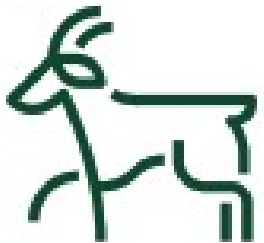
- Project plan detailing:
 - problem statement
 - anticipated impact
 - outcomes methodology
 - planed evaluation
- CVs for project leads
- Letters of support (in principle or financial)
- Milestone summary
- Budget
- Evaluation Report if a continuing project

How to apply

Applications are open from 4 March to 11:59pm, Monday 15 April 2024.



Assessment and next steps



Successful projects are expected to be announced in June 2024 and to commence from July 2024 onwards.

Questions & Answers?

Further information available on the LBF Website
agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/funds-grants-programs/livestock-biosecurity-funds